In respect of Border Road Development Board (BRDB), the details of targets assigned for the year 2004-05 and achievement thereof are given in the Statement (*See* below). An amount of Rs. 320 crore was allocated to be spent for the achievement of the said targets by BRDB.

Some of the targets were not achieved due to problems associated with land acquisition/pre-construction activities, poor performance of contractors, ROB clearances, environment and forest clearances, non availability of Grade-B (IS:2062) steel for bridge superstructure, early onset of monsoon, flash floods resulting in road communications being cut off etc.

Statement

Details of targets assigned for the year 2004-05 and achievements thereof

Sl. No.	Description of items	Unit	Target	Achievement
1.	Improvement to low grade section	km	13.42	21.77
2.	Widening single lane to two lane	km	155.92	183.28
3.	Strengthening weak pavement	km	4.17	4.17
4.	Construction of major bridges	Nos	15	12
5.	Construction of major bridges	Nos	15	5
6.	Improvement in riding quality	km	155.97	167.59

Promotion of Inland Water Transport

†1995. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme for promoting inland water transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to open the extant National Waterway fully for transportation; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will be premature at this stage to give the details.

(c) and (d) Major portion of the existing three national waterways is already open for transportation.

Increase in road transport freights

†1996. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road transport freights have been on the increase in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the annual increase rate during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for such increase in the freights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Under Section 67 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the power to fix the freight rate vests with the State Governments and not with the Central Government. In practice these rates are governed by market forces. The information in this regard is not complied by this Ministry.

Completion of highway corridor

1997. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the highway project of North-South, East-West corridor comprising 7300 kms is moving at a very slow pace; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.